Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Amended) A handle for a hand tool, comprising a shaft member ~~(3)~~ having a longitudinal axis ~~(5)~~ and a first end ~~(3a)~~ adapted for handling by a user and a second end ~~(3b)~~ adapted for coupling to a tool head ~~(1)~~ and a pivot joint ~~(4)~~ coupled to the shaft member ~~(3)~~ and configured to reposition the tool head ~~(1)~~, ~~characterized in~~ the pivot joint ~~(4)~~ including a first swivel surface ~~(10)~~ and a second swivel surface ~~(10)~~ that are substantially parallel and oriented in planes oblique to the longitudinal axis ~~(5)~~, the oblique planes having a normal axis ~~(6)~~ forming an angle ~~(α)~~ substantially within the range of 20 degrees ~~and~~ to 70 degrees with the longitudinal axis ~~(5)~~, and a clamping member ~~(19)~~ configured to position the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~ in a first position and a second position, so that the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~ are substantially restricted from relative movement in the first position and the swivel surface ~~(10)~~ are capable of relative movement in the second position against the influence of a spring member ~~(16)~~.

2. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the tool head ~~(1)~~ is movable about the normal axis ~~(6)~~.

3. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the tool head ~~(1)~~ is positionable in a plurality of positions defined by the relative movement of the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~.

4. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~ are substantially circular.

5. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~ comprise a series of coacting ridges ~~(11)~~ and valleys ~~(12)~~.

6. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 5 wherein the ridges ~~(11)~~ and the valleys ~~(12)~~ are a series of teeth having a substantially triangular cross-section.

7. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the spring member ~~(16)~~ is configured to bias the swivel surfaces ~~(10)~~ into an abutting relationship.

8. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the clamping member ~~(19)~~ comprises a lever member ~~(24)~~ having an eccentric portion ~~(23)~~.

9. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the angle ~~(α)~~ is substantially within the range of 30 degrees to 60 degrees.

10. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the angle ~~(α)~~ is substantially within the range of 40 degrees to 50 degrees.

11. (Amended) The handle for a hand tool of claim 1 wherein the angle ~~(α)~~ is substantially 45 degrees.

12. (New) A tool having a shaft and a tool head, comprising a pivot mechanism operably coupled between at least a portion of the shaft and the tool head, the pivot mechanism including a first surface and a second surface configured in a substantially parallel relationship defining an oblique plane relative to the shaft, the surfaces having coacting engagement structure, and a clamping device having a handle movable between a first position where the coacting engagement structure is configured to substantially restrict relative movement between the first surface and the second surface and a second position where the coacting engagement structure is configured to permit relative movement between the first surface and the second surface, so that the tool head may be repositioned relative to at least a portion of the shaft.

13. (New) The tool of Claim 12 wherein the coacting engagement structure comprise teeth.

14. (New) The tool of Claim 12 further comprising a spring configured to bias one of the surfaces away from the other of the surfaces.

15. (New) The tool of Claim 14 wherein the handle includes a cam portion configured to prevent separation of the surfaces when the handle is in the first position and configured to permit separation of the surfaces by the spring when the handle is in the second position.

16. (New) The tool of Claim 12 wherein the surfaces have a substantially common normal axis and at least one of the surfaces is configured to rotate relative to the other of the surfaces when the handle is in the second position.

17. (New) The tool of Claim 16 wherein the pivot mechanism further comprises a pin member extending at least partially along the normal axis.

18. (New) The tool of Claim 17 wherein the handle is pivotally coupled to the pin member.

19. (New) A tool having a shaft including a first end coupled to a tool head and a second end having a grip portion, the tool comprising a pivot mechanism operably coupled between at least a portion of the tool head and the grip portion, the pivot mechanism including a first surface and a second surface configured in a substantially parallel relationship defining an oblique plane relative to the shaft, the surfaces having mutually engagable structure, and a clamping device having a handle movable between a first position where the structure are engaged to restrict movement between the surfaces and a second position where the structure are disengaged to permit movement between the surfaces, so that the tool head may be angularly repositioned relative to the shaft.

20. (New) The tool of Claim 19 wherein the clamping member further comprises a spring configured to bias one of the surfaces away from the other of the surfaces and permit relative rotation of the surfaces about an a common normal axis of the surfaces.